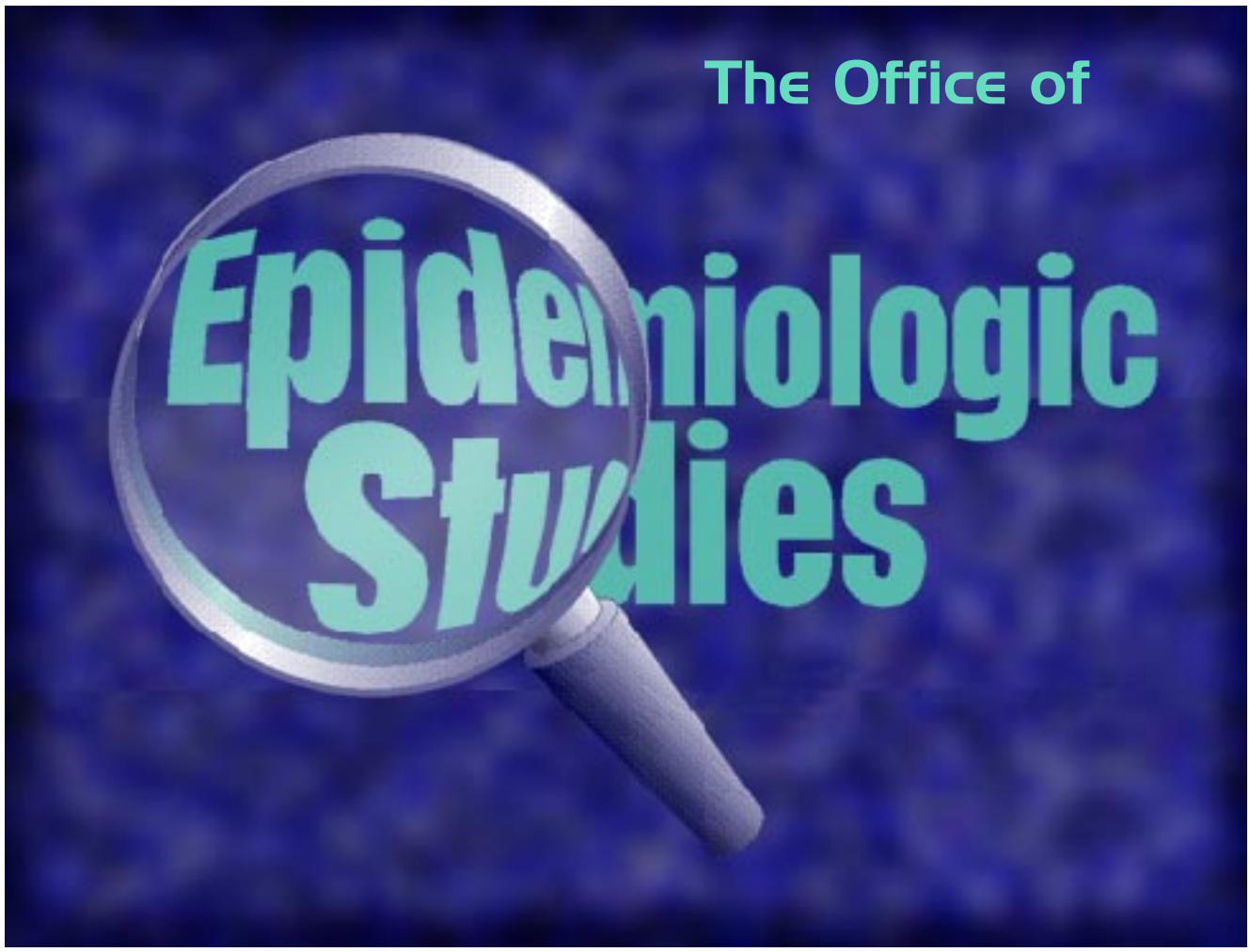
1998-1999 Operating Plan



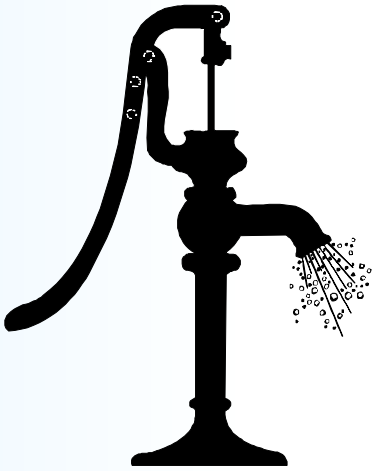
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC

Mission

The mission of the Office of Epidemiologic Studies is to expand the understanding of health effects of radiation, chemicals, and other hazards to Department of Energy workers and the public. The Office uses its expertise and abilities to assist in the identification and application of effective approaches to prevent illness and injury. A public health perspective is an integral part of all program activities.

Origins of Epidemiology: The Broad Street Pump

The Broad Street pump symbolizes the basic foundations of epidemiology. In the mid 1850's cholera was rampant in certain areas of London. John Snow using data available to him at the time, inferred that the water supplied by certain water companies was responsible for transmission of disease. Dr. Snow removed the pump handle of the Broad Street Pump thereby, stopping the source of contamination. Cholera cases in that area of the city dropped dramatically. His report lead to the filtration of water - about 25 years before the cholera vibrio was identified. Snow's achievement was based on his logical organization of observations and his quantitative approach to analyze disease in human populations.



Director's Message

As the Department of Energy continues its evolution from development, testing, and production of nuclear weapons to disassembly, waste management and site remediation, the Office of Epidemiologic Studies has developed a program that is focused toward current health risks and health concerns while seeking to understand the past. The Office has developed and manages programs to monitor the health and safety of the current work force while supporting research programs directed at detecting health effects associated with past health hazards. Data from all of our programs are routinely made available through the Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR), our public-use database.

The Office maintains a vigorous program to monitor worker health, investigate suspected disease outbreaks, communicate health information, and champion research that addresses the concerns of our stakeholders. We have established partnerships with many DOE site offices and respond to management, worker, and community questions and concerns.

Personifying a fusion of public health expertise and specialized health professions, the Office staff represents multiple disciplines, including Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Occupational Health Nursing, Health Physics, Environmental Health Sciences, Industrial Hygiene, and Chemistry.
In the last year our Office has many accomplishments to its credit. I hope you will take a minute to review our operating plan and visit our web site at *http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/epi*

Heather G. Stockwell, Sc.D.
Director

Core Values

These core values are the fundamental operating principles of our Office.

Professional

Our activities are guided by a professional code of conduct. Each staff member is accountable for individual decisions and work products; provides independent creative approaches to problem solving and produces quality products on time.

Interpersonal

We are people oriented. We value our integrity and abide by ethical guidelines for practicing public health, we work well together and support each other. We subscribe to a philosophy that values differences of opinion in our approach to problem solving.

Organizational

We value organization. Through it we accomplish our mission. Our organization is customer-oriented, cooperative in a constructive and understanding manner and flexible, as well as consensus-building in our approach.

Business Lines

Responsibilities of the Office of Epidemiologic Studies are organized according to four business lines. Each business line and vision represents our commitment to provide superior epidemiologic benefit.

Management Support

Vision: Provide assistance in the interpretation of occupational and environmental health issues for DOE workers, management, and the public.

Health Communication

Vision: Provide occupational and environmental health information to the DOE community and the public.

Intramural Health Studies

Vision: Understand the health effects associated with occupational exposures and identify emerging health problems in the DOE workplace.

Health Studies Management

Vision: Support a program of extramural occupational and environmental health research.

Activities and Accomplishments During 1997

Management Support

The Disease Cluster Team completes two investigations. One investigation concerned reported brain cancer. A second concern focused on a reported outbreak of chorioretinitis among DOE staff.

Brookhaven National Laboratory worker health concerns addressed. Epidemiologic Surveillance Program staff initiated an assessment of cancer rates among current and former workers.

Health Communication

The Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR) increased its holdings and capabilities . Seven data file sets, comprising 23 data files, were installed and several files of updated information were added to existing data file sets. Full data documentation at both file and variable-levels was made available by migrating CEDR to a modern bibliographic database and World Wide Web technology. A digital version of the CEDR catalog was installed in the database, making it viewable, printable, and keyword searchable on-line.

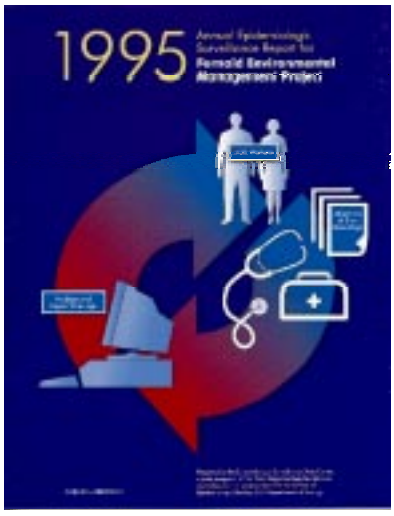
A Health Bulletin was issued . It summarizes the major conclusions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Fernald Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project.

Internet Home-Page was placed on-line . It provides public access to activities of the Office. Internet address: *http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/epi*

Presentation on the Epidemiology of Chronic Beryllium Disease Conducteded . The presentation was provided as part of a beryllium training course.

Intramural Health Studies

The Epidemiologic Studies Program completed two cancer mortality studies . Workers at the Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center were the subject of one study. Results were presented onsite to management and workers. Results of the second study, "Descriptive study of deaths from cancer associated with residential proximity to the site of underground nuclear detonations," which had been previously presented to the community, was published in the scientific journal, *Archives of Environmental Health*, Feb 1998, 109-133.



The Epidemiologic Surveillance Program expanded. Implementation of the Epidemiologic Surveillance Program was initiated at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The annual epidemiologic surveillance report was reformatted and enhanced.

First major review of the health of women in the DOE workforce conducted. Initial review and presentation of findings was completed. Surveillance data continue to be analyzed to determine rates of illness and injury to identify workplace conditions that may be unhealthy.

Activities and Accomplishments During 1997

Health Studies Management

The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR) attained a major landmark. Ten peer-reviewed articles were published for a total of 120 USTUR articles pertaining to the biokinetics and dosimetry of alpha-emitting materials. USTUR examined the relative concentration of plutonium in soft tissues to confirm that the liver remains the organ at greatest risk. It improved methods for estimating total skeletal deposits of actinides from a reduced number of skeletal samples. A collaborative research program was established to provide technical assistance and data comparison with a Russian dosimetry registry .

The Community Studies Program in four States reached major milestones. In South Carolina, the Savannah River Region Cancer Registry established through the State Health Agreement Program, produced its first statistical report for 1991-1993, and the cancer registries were formally transferred to the South Carolina Department of Health. A feasibility study of establishing a birth defects registry in the region was completed.

In California, the study of cancer mortality among radiation-monitored workers at the Rocketdyne/Atomics International facility was completed and reported to management, workers, and the community.

In Colorado, major draft reports were completed and released to the public concerning the amount, pathways, and health risks of the major contaminants, plutonium, carbon, tetrachloride, and beryllium that were released from the Rocky Flats Plant during its years of past operation.

In Tennessee, major draft reports were released to the public concerning the amount, pathways, and health risks of the major contaminants, iodine-131, cesium-137, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, and uranium that were released from three DOE Oak Ridge facilities.

New worker health studies were initiated through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Studies included estimating exposures to internally deposited radioactive materials, exploring the use of improved neutron dosimetry in worker health studies, and the early recognition of acute radiation syndrome in Russian nuclear workers. NIOSH completed studies of multiple myeloma, childhood cancer and parental exposure to ionizing radiation, a study of neurologic health among workers exposed to mercury, and an analysis of the usefulness of biodosimeters in epidemiologic studies.

Community health studies at various sites were conducted by the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). A survey of milk producers was completed for the region surrounding the Hanford site as part of the iodine pathway dose reconstruction. At Savannah River a dose reconstruction project was undertaken.

Business Line: Management Support

Disease Cluster Investigations

A disease cluster is an unusual excess of disease, whether real or perceived, that merits further investigation. The Office of Epidemiologic Studies responds to occupational health concerns identified by employees, labor relations representatives, and occupational medicine physicians. Any DOE employee or contractor employee can speak directly with a staff epidemiologist regarding workplace health concerns. Health concerns investigated by this Office include sick building syndromes and excess cancers among the workforce.

Goals for 1998-1999

To respond within two working days of receiving information concerning a possible disease cluster.

To provide objective scientific assessments of possible disease clusters.

Program Manager: Bonnie Richter, Ph.D. (301) 903-4501

Epidemiologic Consultation

The Office provides expertise and consultation in epidemiology. We provide assistance in interpreting occupational and environmental health-related data for DOE workers, management, and the community. We can also suggest ways to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention strategies.

Management Support Initiative

Fundamentals of Epidemiology Course

A short course on the fundamentals of epidemiology is being designed for DOE Headquarters and site personnel. These sessions will introduce epidemiologic principles and study methodology used by these medical detectives. The course will provide the basic knowledge required to understand and evaluate studies of the DOE workforce. In addition, it will show how the methodology can make a positive impact on management evaluation and decision-making.

Goals for 1998-1999

To develop the curriculum for the Epidemiology Course.
To pilot the course.

Program Managers: Heather Stockwell, Sc.D. (301) 903-3721
Bonnie Richter, Ph.D. (301) 903-4501

Business Line: Health Communications

Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR)

A major Office of Epidemiologic Studies' program that reflects the Department's continuing commitment to openness is CEDR. It is a public-use repository of data collected during more than 35 years of DOE-sponsored epidemiologic, environmental, and related health studies. The CEDR program is dedicated to providing access to these hundreds of data files and to ensuring that current studies are documented and made available to researchers and the public. The offer of these data, at no cost, optimizes their utilization for a wide variety of purposes, and ensures that CEDR continues to encourage improved understanding of the health effects of radiation and chemicals on workers and communities. Visit CEDR on the Internet at *http://cedr.lbl.gov*

Goals for 1998-1999

To install at least eight additional data file sets and their associated documentation.
To complete quality assurance procedures on CEDR's incoming data sets and on 75 percent of current holdings.
To integrate Java applet technology with World Wide Web (WWW) features for a new CEDRview capability to facilitate browsing and to streamline installation of new data sets.
To explore techniques to improve display of data, such as releases and doses, generated for offsite environmental dose reconstructions at DOE sites.
To customize CEDR data submission guidelines for new types of data file sets.

Program Manager: Barbara Brooks, M.S. (301) 903-4674

Business Line: Health Communications

Health Bulletins

Health Bulletins are a series of publications produced by the Office that address issues and concerns that are important to the DOE workforce. The bulletins often include information from articles on the results of studies that analyzed the health of DOE workers or the community at a particular site. Other bulletins report information relevant to workers, such as a study of the risk of using video display terminals. The bulletins are written in language meant to inform and make complex research findings more accessible to the non-technical reader. These articles are distributed to more than 600 persons at DOE sites. To add your name to the mailing list, contact Marsha Lawn at - *marsha.lawn@eh.doe.gov* or (301) 903-3721.

Goal for 1998-1999

To distribute Health Bulletins when study results are published.

Program Manager: Claudia Beach, RN COHN (301) 903-9826

Internet Home Page

The Office of Epidemiologic Studies Internet Home Page makes information on the health of the DOE workforce available to a wider range of interested persons. The home page is helping us to expand communications by significantly improving the accessibility of DOE worker health and safety information through the World Wide Web. Documents now available through our home page include: Epidemiologic Surveillance Reports, Health Bulletins, Epidemiology News, Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource, and the DOE Access Handbook. The home page provides information on the Office mission, strategies, and personnel. It also provides links to other pertinent public health information related to DOE workers and communities surrounding DOE sites.

Plans are to expand reports, bulletins, and related documentation available through the home page; update program descriptions, and increase the number of hyperlinks to related Internet resources on occupational health and safety, as well as public health.

Business Line: Intramural Health Studies

Epidemiologic Surveillance

The goals of epidemiologic surveillance are to monitor morbidity and assess the overall health of the DOE workforce, and to identify groups that may be at increased risk for occupational injury and illness. Epidemiologic surveillance supports the DOE's only multisite health information data base linked to current workers. The program facilitates interventions that reduce or eliminate risk and provides a means by which the effectiveness of these corrective actions can be measured. The goals are accomplished through the routine collection, analysis, and interpretation of selected morbidity, demographic, and occupational exposure data. In response to indications of excess risk, the Office of Epidemiologic Studies assesses the need for additional investigations according to an established protocol. The program provides timely health information about the DOE labor force and is a resource for rapid response to health concerns raised by stakeholders. Annual reports, available at DOE reading rooms and distributed throughout the sites, summarize the results of epidemiologic surveillance at participating sites. At several sites, implementation of the program has also advanced the automation of health data management systems, fostering the development of state-of-the-art medical information management. The Epidemiologic Surveillance Program is a response to DOE's legislative mandate (Atomic Energy Act of 1954, Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, and Department of Energy Organization Act, 1977) to monitor the impact of its operations on the environment, the health of its workforce, and the residents of communities surrounding DOE sites.

Special Analyses

There are about 25,000 female employees at DOE sites enrolled in the Epidemiologic Surveillance Program. Women are engaged in all job categories from office support to nuclear engineering. Although work conditions for men and women are becoming more alike, historically it was mainly males who were the subject of health studies. This was due to the relatively small number of women at any one site, studies of which could lead to inaccurate estimates of health effects. Surveillance data are now being analyzed to determine the rates of illness and injury among women in the current workforce in order to identify workplace conditions that may be unhealthy. The surveillance data will be the basis for future in-depth studies. This research forms part of our contribution to the National women's health initiative to ensure women's inclusion in Federal health studies.
Contact: Bonnie Richter, Ph.D. (301) 903-4501

Goals for 1998-1999

To establish a dosimetry exposure data module for epidemiologic surveillance.
To complete analysis of cancer incidence review for former and current Brookhaven National Laboratory workers.
To complete implementation of the program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Kansas City Plant, and Nevada Test Site.
To expand analysis of occupational injuries and illnesses.
To conduct additional special analyses of DOE workers as data permit.

Program Manager: Clifton H. Strader, Ph.D., (301) 903-5799

Business Line: Intramural Health Studies

Intramural Health Studies Initiative

Beryllium Exposure Registry

DOE has used beryllium metal in many nuclear applications over the past several decades. Workers who inhale beryllium dust or particles can develop a chronic, irreversible, and sometimes fatal lung disease known as Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD). The disease has a delayed onset, meaning that it may appear years after exposure has ceased. Although not always a fatal disease, serious cases of CBD can be debilitating and shorten life expectancy. Since 1991, a screening program at Rocky Flats and at Oak Ridge has examined more than 7,000 workers and identified 69 workers with CBD. This screening program has been expanded to other DOE sites.

The Office is in the process of establishing a beryllium exposure registry. The goal of the registry is to determine which DOE workers were exposed to beryllium and who is at risk for developing disease. It will monitor the effectiveness of DOE's CBD Prevention Program efforts through maintenance of the registry of exposed workers and their ongoing health status. It will track beryllium workers, regardless of the site or movement between sites. Through "watchful vigilance," analysis of registry data will be fed back to workers and health and safety professionals with focus on early warnings to guide timely intervention and prevention activities and to improve control measures, as appropriate. The data will help assess the burden of the effects of beryllium exposure or health outcomes. It will facilitate epidemiologic studies and health surveillance programs to better understand CBD and its prevention.

Goals for 1998-1999

To develop the framework for a beryllium registry.
To implement the registry at DOE sites with current exposure to beryllium.
To provide technical assistance to sites during implementation.

Program Manager: Claudia Beach, RN COHN (301) 903-9826

Epidemiologic Studies

The Office considers requests from workers, State health departments, and others to conduct health studies related to DOE sites. Preliminary health or exposure information is evaluated first by the epidemiology staff. A visit to the site or State health department may then be arranged for an assessment in greater depth. The types of epidemiologic investigations are varied. For example, we have investigated community health concerns related to underground nuclear detonations at the Salmon Test Site, as well as worker concerns about cancer at the Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center. The Office of Epidemiologic Studies is also available to review or evaluate data previously analyzed by other investigators.
Contact: Bonnie Richter, Ph.D., (301) 903-4501

Business Line: Health Studies Management

U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries (USTUR)

USTUR is a major component of DOE's long-standing programs to improve our ability to estimate internal doses attributable to the intake of plutonium and uranium and other long-lived, alpha-emitting radioactive materials. Based on voluntary enrollment of occupationally exposed individuals, the Registries have become a unique resource of data, radioanalytical capabilities, and research materials. USTUR includes the operation of two catalogued repositories, the National Human Radiobiology Tissue Repository and the National Radiobiology Archive of Tissues from animal studies, to ensure that donated tissues and histopathology slides are available for use by all interested researchers. These resources are fundamental to the Registries' continued success in refining biokinetic models and radiological standards that are in worldwide use to help ensure safe working conditions. Visit the USTUR web site at *http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/~ustur*

Goals for 1998-1999

To publish research results in at least ten peer-reviewed articles, one of which will be an article characterizing a new biokinetic model for Am-241, utilizing parameters developed from recent USTUR data.
To increase collaboration in a joint Russian-USTUR project to maintain a radiochemistry intercomparison schedule and upgrade of Russian radiochemistry capabilities.
To utilize techniques that increase efficiencies in radiochemical processes to more quickly analyze tissues.
To initiate cytogenetic evaluation, such as molecular probing or chromosome painting, for at least one suitable USTUR case to study potential bioeffects of radiation and chemicals.
To complete transfer of USTUR dissection laboratory and tissue repositories from Spokane to new lower cost facilities in Richland.

Program Manager: Barbara G. Brooks, M.S. (301) 903-4674

Business Line: Health Studies Management

Community Studies

During the past 50 years, vast quantities of radioactive and chemical materials have been used in the operation of DOE weapons production facilities. Unknown amounts of these materials were discharged to the environment, possibly exposing people living in nearby communities. Residents are concerned that contact with these contaminants may result in adverse health effects.

To address these health concerns, the Office of Epidemiologic Studies initiated the State Health Agreement (SHA) Program. The program has allowed State health departments to address citizen health concerns and enabled them to build their capacities to address environmental health issues. The first grant was awarded to Colorado in 1989. Since that time, grants have been awarded to California, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Work on studies in Florida, Idaho, and New Mexico has been completed; studies in California, Colorado, and Tennessee will be finished in FY 98-99.

The activities supported under the SHA Program have been broad in scope and include determination of offsite chemical and radiologic exposure (historical dose reconstruction), establishment of cancer and birth defects registries, community health studies, and community health education activities related to radiation and chemical exposure. Information from these various programs are available from the State health departments or the Office of Epidemiologic Studies.

Goals for 1998-1999

In the South Carolina program, to analyze five years of cancer incidence data and publish reports.
In the California program, to complete a study of chemical exposures and mortality among the workers.
In the Tennessee and Colorado programs, to finalize draft technical reports on each contaminant and prepare a summary report, in lay terms, that presents all study results, including an assessment of health risks due to simultaneous exposure to radioactive and chemical contaminants.

Program Manager and Contact for South Carolina:
Bonnie Richter, Ph.D. (301) 903-4501
Contact for California Program:
Gerald Petersen, Ph.D. (301) 903-2340
Contact for Tennessee and Colorado Programs:
Barbara Brooks, M.S. (301) 903-4674

Business Line: Health Studies Management

Worker and Community Health Studies

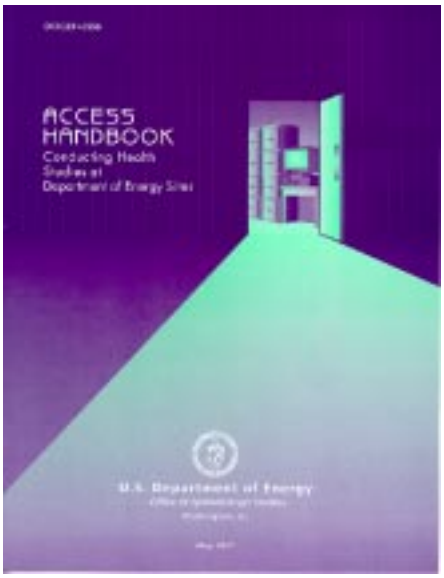
Health studies have been conducted at DOE sites for more than 40 years as mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Recently, DOE funded other health agencies to assist with this work. In 1990, DOE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support an external health research program. Within HHS, studies focusing on worker issues are conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and community studies are conducted by the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). Currently more than 50 studies are underway at various sites. Some of these projects examine health concerns in the workforce; others examine health concerns among residents of communities near DOE that might be related to exposures from the site. To review additional information on studies being conducted at DOE, click on "Epidemiology News," on the Epidemiologic Studies' Home Page.

Data from the studies (excluding personal identifying information) are made available to researchers through a public-use database - Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR). The Internet address is: http://cedr.lbl.gov.

The "Access Handbook - Conducting Health Studies at Department of Energy Sites" provides more detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of each group when a worker study is initiated. Copies are available by contacting Marsha Lawn at (301) 903-3721 or e-mail at *marsh.lawn@eh.doe.gov*.

Goals for 1998-1999

To develop a coordinated research agenda along with our partners and customers.
To serve as the primary point-of-contact within DOE for epidemiologic studies regardless of which organization or agency is conducting the study.
To provide information to DOE elements concerning epidemiologic health studies.
To prepare notices of a health study for distribution by Operations Offices to all employees when an epidemiologic study is to be undertaken.
To coordinate introductory site visits.
To coordinate meetings and facilitate dispute resolution.
To maintain contact on a regular and an as-needed basis with HHS staff.



Program Manager NIOSH Studies:: Gerald Petersen, Ph.D. FACE (301) 903-2340
Program Manager NCEH Studies: Claudia Beach, RN COHN (301) 903-9826

Business Line: Health Studies Management

Health Studies Management Initiative

Health Studies Workshops

Public Health Activities: Dialogues with Workers and Communities

DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have undertaken a joint effort to improve coordination of health-related studies at sites across the DOE complex. As part of this endeavor, the two agencies are soliciting feedback from workers, communities, and other stakeholders regarding programs currently in place and about the direction that health-related activities should take in the future. Public workshops were held at a number of DOE sites through early 1998. Workshop participants included representatives from DOE Office of Environmental Safety and Health and the Office of Environmental Management, , DHHS, State health departments, DOE site, contractors, and worker labor representatives, as well as local stakeholders and members of the community. Also participating were citizen advisory board members and site-based health effects subcommittees. Meetings are advertised in the *Federal Register*, local news papers and newsletters, or notices and direct mailings. Written comments are also accepted after the workshop has been completed.

Goals for 1998-1999

To have more direct interaction with stakeholders.
To gain a broader input to the formulation of an agenda for future health studies and other public health activities.
To base a research agenda on a set of priorities responsive to worker and community concerns that recognizes budgetary limitations, and leads to a clearer understanding of the health impacts of DOE operations and improved health protection and prevention programs for workers and communities.

Program Manager: Heather Stockwell, Sc.D. (301) 903-3721

Staff Profiles

Heather G. Stockwell, Sc.D., is the Director of the Office of Epidemiologic Studies. As Office Director, her responsibilities include management of all aspects of both the intramural and extramural health studies programs. Dr. Stockwell coordinates an external epidemiology research program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is involved in a long-term strategic planning initiative by the two agencies. She also directs an internal epidemiologic research and surveillance program. Dr. Stockwell's responsibilities include the continued development of the office's public-use database and other health communication activities. She manages several large grants programs, including an environmental epidemiologic program and the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries. Before joining the DOE in 1992, Dr. Stockwell was Associate Professor or Epidemiology and Dean for Research in the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida (USF). At USF, she conducted research into the occupational and environmental causes of cancer, including research on the health effects of indoor radon and environmental tobacco smoke. While at the College of Public Health, Dr. Stockwell developed the doctoral program in epidemiology and supervised student doctoral research. She was elected Head of the Epidemiology Section of the Florida Public Health Association and worked closely with the State on numerous epidemiology projects. Dr. Stockwell's research has been published extensively in the scientific literature. Her current research interests include radiation health effects, cancer epidemiology, and occupational and environmental causes of cancer. She continues to maintain a research interest in cancer among women. Dr. Stockwell received her Sc.D. in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, specializing in environmental and occupational epidemiology.

Claudia L. Beach, RN COHN, is an occupational health nurse specialist and the newest addition to the Office of Epidemiologic Studies. She has 26 years experience in occupational health and safety, litigation support activities, and training. In her position with the DOE's Office of Epidemiologic Studies, she provides clinical input to senior epidemiology staff on investigations, site teaming, and surveillance programs. Ms. Beach evaluates the need for various screening programs. Ms. Beach recently graduated from the USDA Graduate School's Executive Potential Program. Ms. Beach served as an occupational health nurse supervisor with Chrysler Corporation, as occupational health services manager with Consolidated Diesel Company, and occupational health charge-nurse with the U.S. Public Health Service at the White House Complex. In addition, she has served as Repetitive Stress Injury Prevention coordinator for the Washington Post, and as an event nurse for The Washington Convention Center. She holds a BA in Management from National Louis University and is board certified in occupational health nursing.

Barbara G. Brooks, M.S., is a health physicist with more than 25 years of Federal Government experience in radiological protection. Serving in the Office since its establishment in 1990, she provides technical support to all Office programs. Using her broad experience in project and data management, Ms. Brooks led the Office effort to develop a public-use database of epidemiologic data and continues as program manager for the Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR). Her other responsibilities include providing DOE representation and consultation to State advisory panels that are overseeing historical community exposure studies in Colorado and Tennessee and managing a university grant for research on the biokinetics of actinides in humans. Ms. Brooks' prior experience includes 20 years with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she published numerous reports that analyzed data on occupational radiation exposures. She received her Master's degree in health physics from the University of Tennessee and is a member of the Health Physics Society.

Staff Profiles

Carolyn H. Clarke serves as the program support specialist for the Office. Ms. Clarke has program responsibility for budget and procurement. She is the liaison for personnel actions and manages staff travel. Ms. Clarke has expertise in desktop publishing and graphics presentations and is the primary editor of all technical publications. In addition, she serves as program coordinator for the Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource. She has been a member of the Office since February 1991, having previously held positions with several other Federal agencies. In 1995, Ms. Clarke celebrated 20 years of service with the Federal Government. Her professional experience also includes work in the private sector, including communications and real estate development.

Marsha Lawn provides administrative guidance and support to the Office Director and staff. She is responsible for coordinating the unsolicited grants application process within the Office. Ms. Lawn is also the conference and workshop coordinator. Using her skills in desktop publishing, she produces the Health Bulletins and presentation materials. Ms. Lawn has expanded her role within the office by enhancing her skills to provide management analysis support. In addition to these duties, Ms Lawn is the Office of Health Studies' representative to the Technical Qualification Program and is the Training Coordinator. Ms. Lawn recently graduated from the USDA Graduate School's New Leader Program, which focuses on the leadership and teaming abilities of Federal Employees. She has been with the Department of Energy since 1987. Prior to that she worked in the private sector and at other Federal agencies.

Gerald Petersen, Ph.D., FACE, is a senior epidemiologist in the Office of Epidemiologic Studies. He served on the DOE Task Force to establish the original DOE Office of Epidemiology and Health Surveillance from 1989 through 1990 and has been involved in all program areas since that time. He is responsible for the effective implementation and completion of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health worker health studies at all DOE facilities. Dr. Petersen has more than 25 years of experience in occupational epidemiology and 18 years in the nuclear weapons complex. He has worked in a State health department and held academic positions at three universities where he taught public health courses. He has published scientific studies about cancer patterns, occupation and cancer, and occupational health surveillance. Dr. Petersen received his doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Washington in 1973 and is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. Dr. Petersen's professional goal is to bring his considerable experience and skill together to find creative solutions to health issues as the Department turns from the cold-war to environmental restoration.

Staff Profiles

Bonnie S. Richter, M.P.H., Ph.D., is a senior epidemiologist in the Office of Epidemiologic Studies and has been a member of the Office since its establishment in 1990. Dr. Richter has more than 10 years' experience with the Federal Government. Her area of expertise is in environmental epidemiology with extensive experience in conducting health studies of communities that may have been exposed to toxic wastes or radionuclides. She provides technical guidance and information to the Department on epidemiologic activities and research. She is the manager of a grants program for State health departments that support epidemiologic studies and other activities of communities surrounding DOE sites. Dr. Richter manages and directs disease outbreak investigations at DOE Headquarters and at the sites. She also provides guidance and assistance to the Epidemiologic Surveillance Program and has focused analysis on illness and injury of women in the DOE workforce. Dr. Richter serves as the epidemiologic consultant for the beryllium worker health surveillance program and the beryllium registry. Dr. Richter has taught epidemiologic methods to diverse audiences, and is the author of many articles written for DOE workers. She received her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and is a member of the Society for Epidemiologic Research.

Clifton H. Strader, Ph.D., has been a member of the Office of Epidemiologic Studies since its establishment in 1990. He has worked for the DOE for 8 years and has done extensive work in the development of occupational health surveillance methods. He currently manages the Epidemiologic Surveillance Program, monitoring occupational illness and injury among more than 60,000 DOE contractor workers at ten sites. Dr. Strader is responsible for the development of epidemiologic surveillance reports and has lectured on various health and safety issues to numerous audiences including DOE workers, site occupational medicine staff, line management, and organized labor. He provides management support in the conduct of outbreak investigations and provides guidance and consultation in the Department's ongoing evaluation and redesign of approaches to integrate health, safety, and environment data analysis. As the Office of Health Studies' representative on the Office of Information Management's Executive Stakeholder Board, he provides consultation in the areas of data sharing, quality assurance, and automated data processing technology, with a special emphasis on data needs for health sciences research and occupational health surveillance. He received his doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Washington School of Public Health.

Staff Directory

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